

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

June 17, 1977


As provided under the provisions of Section 14, Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Texas, I disapprove of S.B. 83 and am filing same with the Secretary of State setting forth the following objections:

I disapprove of Senate Bill No. 83, relating to persons not qualified to vote, because the bill amends a section of the Election Code that is due to be revised. The total revision will be of greater benefit than a piecemeal approach as in this bill.

Senate Bill No. 83 changes the words "idiots and lunatics" to "persons who are mentally incompetent as determined by a court order" and deletes "paupers supported by the county" from the list of persons not allowed to vote. Present practice achieves much of the substantive effect of this bill. The Secretary of State's Elections Division construes Subsection 2, Article 5.01, Election Code to require a court order of mental incompetence before denying a person voting rights.

Felons have the right to petition for pardons under current law, and therefore have their voting rights restored. A bill enacted this session, dealing with mandatory supervision, will result in the release of felons from the penitentiary, who are not on parole, and this bill does not speak to denial of their right to vote, and is unclear in its meaning.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the seal of the State of Texas to be affixed hereto at Austin, Texas, this 17th day of June, 1977


DOLPH BRISCOE
Governor of Texas

MARK WHITE
Secretary of State